

Environmental Trends in British Columbia, 2002

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Abstract

Environmental Trends in British Columbia 2002 (<http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/soerpt/>) is published by the provincial government to make credible scientific information on key environmental issues and trends accessible to citizens. This report employs a series of environmental indicators used by provincial, national and international organizations to measure environmental performance, progress towards environmental targets and to alert decision makers and the public to emerging environmental issues. This report is based on the most recent data available at the end of 2001. Indicators based on annual monitoring programs present data from 2000 or 2001; however, dates vary for indicators based on studies that were conducted irregularly or at longer intervals. Experts in the field have reviewed each indicator. The 16 key indicators incorporate 64 separate measures that show the status and sometimes the trends in issues. The information has been grouped into six theme areas: Biodiversity, Water, Stewardship, Human Health and the Environment, Toxic Contaminants, and Climate Change. When read as a package they paint an overall picture of British Columbia's environment, showing important linkages, particularly between human activities and environmental changes.